(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Question does not arise.

Dwindling population of wild animals in reserve forests

225. SHRI JANARDHANAPOOJARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the population of the endangered animals, including lions, tigers and elephants, is dwindling in the reserve forests each passing year; and

(b) if so, the details for the last three years and action proposed to be taken to protect these animals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Fluctuation in the population of wildlife is a natural phenomenon. The status of population of wild animals on a yearly basis is not collected at Government of India level. As per the information available with the Ministry, there are no reports to indicate a continuous sharp decline in the population of endangered species in general. However, habitat degradation and other distrubances can have adverse effrect on the natural population of wildlife. The All India Estimation of Tiger, co-predators and its prey was carried out recently in the tiger range States of the country using a modified and integrated methodology as recommended by the Tiger Task Force. The details are given in the enclosed Statement-I *See* below. However, in view of the modified new methodology adopted in the process, which is a benchmark in itself, it cannot be compared with the previous estimation of wild animals. Similarly the all India enumeration of wild population of elephants in the country was carried out in 2007, except the North Eastern States. The details are given in the enclosed Statement-II *(See* below/

The steps taken by Government of India to protect wildlife and prevent poaching are as under:

1. The Central Government has enacted the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, to deal with the issues of wildlife crime. Stringent penalties are imposed on the offenders for the contravention of the provisions of the Act.
2. A network of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries has been set up across the country to protect wildlife.
3. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, with a network a five Regional and three Sub Regional Offices, has been set up to control wildlife crime.
4. Financial support is being provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme—*Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger and Project Elephant,* to State/UT Governments for the conservation and development of wildlife and its habitats.
5. India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) that regulates international trade in wildlife and its derivatives.
6. India has bilateral arrangements with China and Nepal on combating wildlife crime.

In addition, the State/UT Governments have also taken the following measures to protect wild animals

1 Intensive patrolling in sensitive areas

2- Coordination with other law enforcement agencies.

3. Provision for arms and ammunition, and communication facilities.

4. Conducting nature awarenes campaigess for the public.

5. Soliciting co-operation from the local communities in wildlife conservation.

Statement-I

Details of forest occupancy of Tigers, Co-Predators, Prey and population estimates of Tigers

State	Tiger	Leopard	Dhol	Sloth Beer	Chital	Samal ar	Wild Pig	Nilgai	Tiger Numbers		
	km²	km²	km²	km²	km2	km²	km²	km²	No.	Lower limit	Upper limit
Shivalik-Gangetic Plain La			adscape	Complex							
Uttarakhand	190	3683	-	853	2161	2756	321	422	178	161	195
Uttar Pradesh	1	2936	190	313	5537	2671	4	837	109	91	127
	2766			0			776.1	5			
Bihar	510	552	323	532	576	321	570	494	10	7	13
Shivalik-	517	7171	513	451	8274	5718	115	929	297	259	335
Gangetic	7			5			45	1			
Central Indian	Landscape Complex			and Eastern		Ghats landscape		Compli	ex		
Andhra	141	37609	410	546	37814	33159	583	265	95	84	107
Pradesh	26		93	73			36	26			
Chhattisgarh	360	14939	379 4	209	18540	7604	250	9250	26	23	28
	9			51			58				
Madhya	156	34736	285	409	41509	33551	599	417	300	236	364
Pradesh	14		08	59			033	04			
Maharashtra	427	4982	435 2	6557	5970	5730	737 0	475 4	103	76	131
Orissa	3914	25516	821 5	432	6040	611	215	711	45	37	53
	4			36			25				
Rajasthan	356	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32	30	35
Jharkhand**	148	131	-	264	721	721	622	no	Not Assessed		
	8			0			6	8			
Central	486	131	859	264	721	721	622	110	601	486	718
Indian	10		62	0			6	8			
Western Ghats Lan<		dscape	Comple								
Karnataka	187	20506	158	207	42349	43412	219	-	290	241	339
	15		62	49			99				
Kerala	616	8363	108	690 4	2931	10469	880 9	-	46	39	53
	8		01								
Tamil	921	14484	196	132	13567	15909	197	250	76	56	95
Nadu	1		58	24			68	5			

Stale	Tiger	Leopard	Dhol	Sloth	Chital	Samabar	Wild	Nilgai	Tiger Numbers		
				Beer			Pig		No.	Lower limit	Upper limit
	km^2	km^2	km^1	km^2	km^1	km^2	km^2	km^2			
Western Chats	340 94	43353	463 21	408 77	58847	69790	505 76	250 5	402	336	487
North East Hills and Brahmaputra Flood Plaint											
Assam*	116 4	1500	285	380	•	270	204 7	"	70	60	80
Arunachal Pradesh*	168 5	670	675 *	199	-	353	412	-	14	12	18
Mizoram*	785	2324	776	479	-	1700	148	-	6	4	8
Northern West Bengal*	596	1135	301	-	280	309	491	-	10	8	12
North East Hills, and Brahmaputra	423	5629	203 7	105 8	280	2632	443 9		100	84	118
Sunderbans	158 6	-	-	-	1184	-	159 1	-	Not Assessed		
Total Tiger Population									141 1	1165	1667

* Population estimates are based on possible density of tiger occupied landscape in the area, not assessed by double sampling.

* Data was not amenable to population estimation of tiger. However, available information about the landscape indicates low densities of tiger in the area ranging from 0.5 to 1.5 per $100km^2$.

Statement-II

Details of Estimated Population of Wild Elephants

Region	State	Elephant Population			
		1993	1997	2002	2007
North-East	Arunachal Pradesh	2102	1800	1607	-
	Assam	5524	5312	5246	
	Meghalaya	2872	1840	1868	
	Nagaland	178	158	145	-
	Mizoram	15	22	33	-
	Manipur	50	30	12	-
	Tripura	100	70	40	-

Region	State	Elephant Populat on			
		1993	1997	2002	2007
	West Bengal (North)	186	250	292	300-350
Total for North-East		11027	9482	9243	
	West Bengal (South)	14	26	36	25
	Jharkhand	550	618	772	624
	Orissa	1750	1800	1841	1862
	Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	122
Total for **East**		2314	2444	2649	2633
North	Uttarakhand	828	1130	1582	1346
	Uttar Pradesh	47	70	85	380
Total for North		875	1200	1667	1726
South	Tamil Nadu	2307	2971	3052	3867
	Karnataka	5500	6088	5838	4035
	Kerala	3500	3600	3850	6068
	Andhra Pradesh	46	57	74	28
	Maharashtra	-	-	-	7
Total for South		11353	12716	12814	140005
Islands	Andaman & Nicobar	35	35	40	
Grand Total		25604	22877	26413	
Grand Total minus NE States		14,577	16,395	17,170	18663

US passport to an IFS officer

226. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether Government has taken note that an Indian Forest Service Officer in employment of the State of Jammu and Kashmir could manage to secure a US passport after changing his name while retaining his Indian Passport;

(b) if so, whether this matter has been taken up with US Government as also with the State Government concerned and their response thereto; and

(c) the action taken so far by Government against the concerned officer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EN VIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Government of Jammu & Kashmir has *vide* letter No. FST/Ser/ AA'88-1 dated 14.11.2007 reported to the Ministry of Environment & Forests that one Indian Forest Service(IFS) officer of J&K cadre namely Shri Aijaz Ahmad Bhat @ Shah was